September 2020

ABBREVIATED PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist can be used to help the site investigator determine if an Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA) is warranted. This checklist should document the rationale for the decision on whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

Checklist Preparer: Caroline Tuero/Associate Project Scientist

(Name/Title)

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(E-mail Address)

Site Name: Coney Island Electroplating Works

Previous Names (if any): see below

2702 Stillwell Ave. Site Location:

(Street)

Brooklyn, New York 11224

(ST) (City)

6997 (Block) (Lot)

Latitude: <u>+40.581038°</u> **Longitude:** <u>-73.982541°</u>

Describe the release (or potential release) and its probable nature:

The Coney Island Electroplating Works (CIEW) site consists of a former electroplating facility near Coney Island Creek in Brooklyn, NY. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discovery of the CIEW site occurred in 2020 during the Site Discovery Initiative associated with the Coney Island Creek site, which is considered to be a sediment plume with multiple possible sources of contamination. The CIEW site is being evaluated as one of the possible sources. The subject property has been utilized for industrial purposes, including laundry, lumber, electroplating, and auto repair, since at least 1924. The entirety of the on-site building was previously occupied by CIEW (also called Ruspantini Ermete Electroplating in city directories). Electroplating operations took place from the 1940s until the early 1990s. The two-story brick building that was previously occupied by the electroplating works is currently subdivided into two storefronts occupied (from north to south) by Stillwell Plumbing Supply and YBC Auto Group. The site is located in a densely industrial area of Brooklyn, with numerous automotive repair shops and auto body shops located along both sides of Stillwell Ave. The former CIEW facility is approximately 260 west of Coney Island Creek. Appendix A includes a Site Location Map, Site Map, 4-Mile Radius Map, and 15-Mile Surface Water Pathway Map for the CIEW site.

CIEW operations involved electroplating of metal surfaces. Electroplating involves depositing a thin layer of metal onto an oppositely charged substrate by passing an electric current through a solution called an electrolyte. When the electric current flows through the circuit, the electrolyte splits up and some of the metal atoms it contains are deposited in a thin layer on top of one of the electrodes. All the constituents of the plating baths contribute to the wastewater stream. Electroplating baths may contain a variety of heavy metals, including cyanide, arsenic, copper, nickel, gold, zinc, chromium (including hexavalent chromium), selenium, lead, or iron.

CIEW was a generator of hazardous waste under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Handler ID No. NYD001493857. The facility was designated as a Large Quantity Generator (LQG) in December 1980. The types of wastes generated at the facility included spent cyanide plating bath solutions and residues (RCRA Waste Codes: F007, F008, and F009). As of 2006, the facility was listed as a non-generator. No violations of RCRA are recorded for the facility in the EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database, which presents a 5-year compliance history (i.e., 2015-2020).

^{*} The site location coordinates were obtained from Google Earth.

Based on review of available aerial photography, the CIEW site location has been occupied by industrial buildings since at least 1924. Available Sanborn® Fire Insurance maps and city directories indicate that the subject property was utilized as a laundry facility from at least 1928 to 1940. A picture and brief statement in a historical magazine article indicates that CIEW filled unspecified defense orders during World War II, which suggests electroplating operations were active in the early- to mid-1940s. However, the 1945 city directory lists a lumber company for the address; electroplating is not listed in the city directories until 1949. The 1950 Sanborn mapping indicates the northern on-site building was occupied by an electroplating facility. Sanborn maps from 1966 through 1993 indicate the electroplating facility expanded to occupy the space directly south of the original facility (i.e., the electroplating works now occupied all of the block and lot). The 1994 Sanborn map does not specify electroplating activities at the facility, and the building is instead labelled an office. City directories beginning in 1992 indicate a transportation company as the occupant.

Review of the available city directories indicate that the following companies occupied the subject property (i.e. street address 2702 Stillwell Ave):

Year	Facility Listing
1928	Ambassador Laundry Serv Inc
1934	Continental Laundry System Inc, Bernard Kafka Pres Cha, Kretchmer Sec-
	Treas
1940	Rex Laundry Svc
1945	Cafiero Jos Lumber Co Inc
1949	Ruspantini Ermete electro plating
1960	Coney Is Electro Plating Wks Inc, Ruspantini Ermete Electro Plating
1965	Coney Is Electro Plating Wks Inc, Ruspantini Ermete electro plating
1970	Coney Is Electro Plating Wks Inc, Ruspantini Ermete electro plating
1973	Coney Is Electro Plating Wks Inc, Ruspantini Ermete electro plating
1976	Coney Island Electro Plating Works Inc
1985	Coney Island Electro Plating Works Inc
1992	Alert Ambulette Transportation
1994	Alert Ambulette Transportation
1997	Alert Auto Corp
1999	Alert Ambulette Transportation
2000	Alert Ambulette
2004	Nataliya Hanukov
2005	Alert Ambulette Avc Corp
2009	Alert Ambulette Service Corps, Jacob Hanukov Bus Service Corp

On September 3, 2020, Weston Solutions, Inc. (WESTON®) Region 2 Site Assessment Team (SAT) performed an off-site reconnaissance at CIEW. Region 2 SAT confirmed the facility is a single, subdivided two-story brick building, currently occupied by a retail plumbing supply company and an automotive repair shop. At the time of the reconnaissance, both storefronts were open and operating for business. The on-site building is bordered to the north by a vacant, grassy lot, fully surrounded by a locked wooden barrier; to the east by Stillwell Ave, and M&N Collision Center beyond; to the south by Auto Group Collision autobody shop, and residences beyond; and to the west by light industrial buildings. There are no groundwater wells located at the property. No stains, pooled liquids, oils, or unlabeled containers were observed at the property; no stressed or discolored vegetation was observed on the adjacent grassy lot. Topography at the site is generally flat. Stormwater runoff is directed to stormwater/sewer drains located on the western side of Stillwell Ave, the closest being approximately 200 feet south of the site. **Appendix B** includes the logbook and photodocumentation from the reconnaissance activities.

The former CIEW facility is located approximately 260 feet west of Coney Island Creek, and within the creek's watershed. During the off-site reconnaissance activities, fishing for human consumption was observed in the western portion of the creek at the Kaiser Park fishing pier. Combined and separated municipal sewers in the area of the site are known to discharge to Coney Island Creek. The majority of Coney Island Creek has been channelized with bulkheading and riprap. The lower (western) portion of the creek is lined with obstructions, including shipwrecks, old barges, pilings, and construction debris. The upper (eastern) portion of the creek is reported to contain abandoned cars and boats, pilings, and other urban refuse. Increases in urbanization and impermeable surfaces have increased stormwater runoff to the creek and significantly reduced or eliminated tidal marshes or other buffer zones that could absorb the extra load. According to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), Coney Island Creek receives 290 million gallons of discharges per year through permitted CSO outfalls and more than a million gallons of stormwater runoff per year. Environmental characterizations of Coney Island Creek indicate that creek sediments are

contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), BTEX compounds (i.e., benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene), and inorganic constituents (such as arsenic and lead). The inorganic constituents are typical contaminants in releases from electroplating operations such as those which took place at the former CIEW facility. CIEW generated large quantities of plating bath solutions, which likely would have contained these heavy metals. Combined and separated municipal sewers in the area of the former facility are known to discharge to the creek, though the precise location of the outfall carrying waters from the CIEW site is not currently known.

Despite the impaired nature of Coney Island Creek, it is utilized for a variety of recreational activities, including boating and birding. Four city parks are located adjacent to the western portion of the creek near the mouth at Gravesend Bay, with a combined 1.1 miles of shoreline of varying accessibility. Although not an officially sanctioned use of the creek, primary contact in the form of swimming and baptisms have been reported along the sandy southwestern shoreline of the creek near Gravesend Bay. Although the presence of chemical and biological contamination in the creek is well-known, Coney Island Creek is fished for human consumption. Species of fish caught for consumption include mullet, porgy, striped bass, fluke, and bluefish. There is one permanent residence situated directly on the creek shoreline, as well as multiple encampments for homeless people. Coney Island Creek is situated within the core area of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary. Sensitive environments subject to potential contamination along the 15-mile surface water pathway for the CIEW site include habitats known to be used by three Federal-designated and six State-designated endangered or threatened species, approximately 35.75 miles of wetland frontage, and the Gateway National Recreation Area.

The CIEW site is underlain by glacial outwash deposits of sand, gravel, and clay; however, groundwater is not known to be a source of drinking water within 4 miles of the site. The nearest residence is approximately 50 feet south of the site. Approximately 2,857,936 people reside within 4 miles of the site. Sensitive environments within 4 miles include approximately 42 acres of HRS-eligible wetlands, and state protected natural areas including NYSDEC Natural Heritage sites, NYSDEC Critical Environmental Areas, and Hudson River Significant Biodiversity Areas, as well as a Federal-designated endangered species habitat.

References for the information presented above are included in Appendix C.

Part 1 - Superfund Eligibility Evaluation

If all answers are "no" go on to Part 2, otherwise proceed to Part 3.	YES	NO
1. Is the site currently in CERCLIS or an "alias" of another site?		
2. Is the site being addressed by some other remedial program (Federal, State, or Tribal)?		×
3. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (e.g., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		
4. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (i.e., deferred to RCRA corrective action)?		×
5. Is there sufficient documentation to demonstrate that no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts exists (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, or an EPA approved risk assessment completed)?		

Please explain all "yes" answer(s).

The EPA ID No. is NYD001493857; the site is not currently on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Part 2 - Initial Site Evaluation

For Part 2, if information is not available to make a "yes" or "no" response, further investigation may be needed. In these cases, determine whether an APA is appropriate. Exhibit 1 parallels the questions in Part 2. Use Exhibit 1 to make decisions in Part 3.

If the answer is "no" to any of questions 1, 2, or 3, proceed directly to Part 3.			
1. Does the site have a release or a potential to release?			

 \boxtimes

2. Does the site have uncontained sources containing CERCLA-eligible substances?	Unknown – insufficient data available.	
3. Does the site have documented on-site, adjacent, or nearby targets?		
If the answers to questions 1, 2, and 3 above were all "yes" then answer the questions below before proceeding to Part 3.	YES	NO
4. Does documentation indicate that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?		×
5. Is there an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site?		×
6. Is there an apparent release and no documented on-site targets or targets immediately adjacent to the site, but there are nearby targets (e.g., targets within 1 mile)?		×

7. Is there no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there are uncontained sources containing

CERCLA hazardous substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on site or in

proximity to the site?

EXHIBIT 1 SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION GUIDELINES FOR A SITE

Exhibit 1 identifies different types of site information and provides some possible recommendations for further site assessment activities based on that information. You will use Exhibit 1 in determining the need for further action at the site, based on the answers to the questions in Part 2. Please use your professional judgment when evaluating a site. Your judgment may be different from the general recommendations for a site given below.

Suspected/Documented Site Conditions	APA	Full PA	PA/SI	SI	
1. There are no releases or potential to release.			No	No	No
2. No uncontained sources with CERCLA-eligible substances are present on site.			No	No	No
3. There are no on-site, adjacent, or nearby	targets.	Yes	No	No	No
4. There is documentation indicating that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has	Option 1: APA →SI	Yes	No	No	Yes
been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site.	Option 2: N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. There is an apparent release at the site with no documentation of exposed	Option 1: APA →SI	Yes	No	No	Yes
targets, but there are targets on site or immediately adjacent to the site.	Option 2: N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. There is an apparent release and no docur and no documented targets immediately adjuthere are nearby targets. Nearby targets are located within 1 mile of the site and have a likelihood of exposure to a hazardous substatite.	No	No	No	Yes	

7. There is no indication of a hazardous substance release, and there	No	No	No	Yes
are uncontained sources containing CERCLA hazardous				
substances, but there is a potential to release with targets present on				
site or in proximity to the site.				

Part 3 - EPA Site Assessment Decision

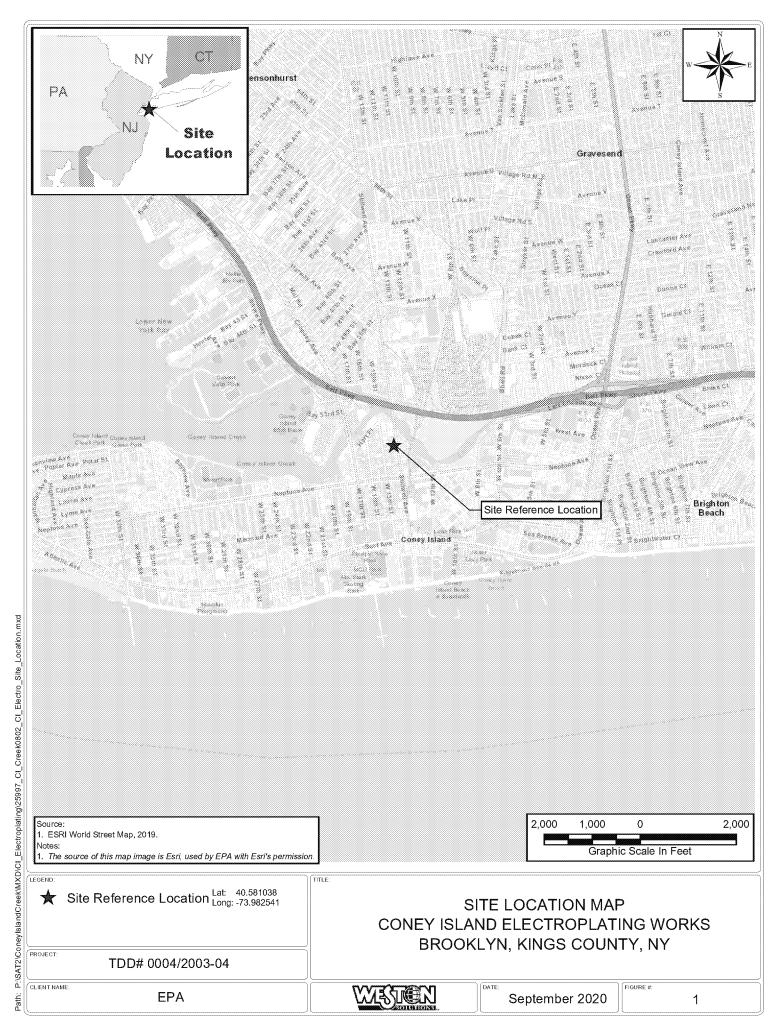
When completing Part 3, use Part 2 and Exhibit 1 to select the appropriate decision. For example, if the answer to question 1 in Part 2 was "no," then an APA may be performed and the "NFRAP" box below should be checked. Additionally, if the answer to question 4 in Part 2 is "yes," then you have two options (as indicated in Exhibit 1): Option 1 —conduct an APA and check the "Lower Priority SI" or "Higher Priority SI" box below; or Option 2 — proceed with a combined PA/SI assessment.

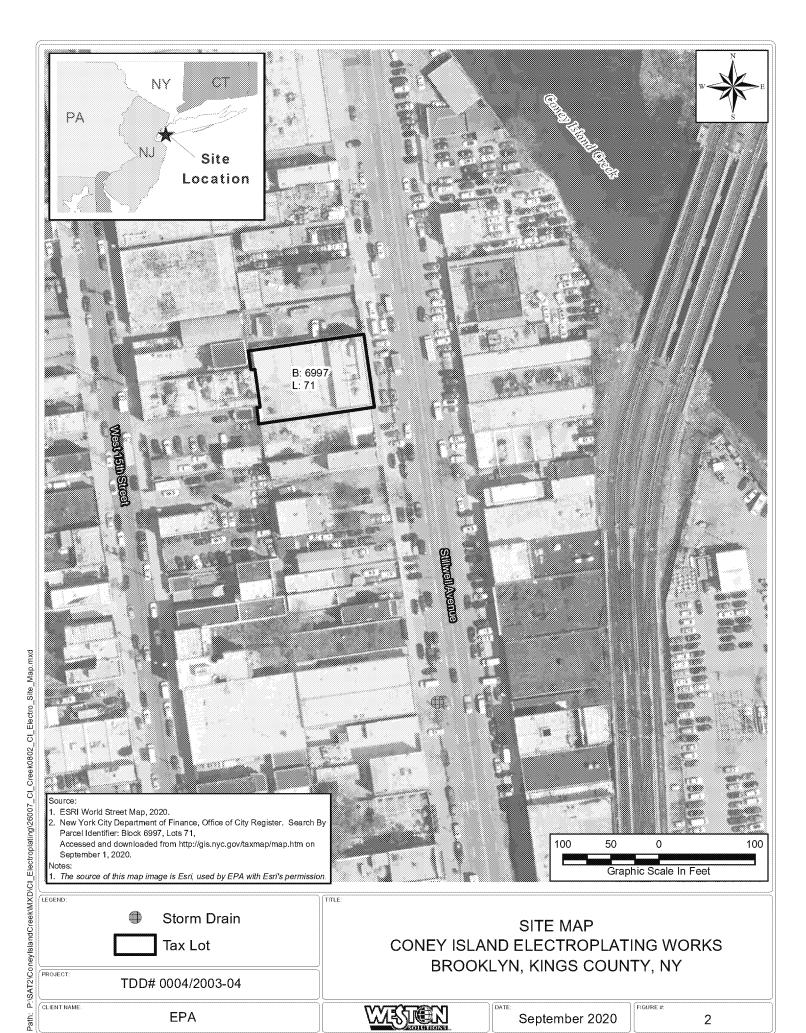
Check the box that applies based on the conclusions of the APA:

	NFRAP	Refer to Removal Program - further site assessment needed		
\boxtimes	Higher Priority SI	Refer to Removal Program - NFRAP		
	Lower Priority SI		Site is being addressed as part of another (CERCLIS site
	Defer to RCRA Subtitle C		Other:	
	Defer to NRC			
Regional EPA Reviewer:		James D	esir James Cesir	9/23/2020
		Print Name/Si	gnature	Date

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR YOUR DECISION: The Higher Priority SI decision is based on the site having a potential to release and the presence of nearby targets. Specifically, the decision is based on an approximately 40- to 50-year history of electroplating activity at the site, which included the generation of hazardous wastes; contaminants commonly associated with electroplating and manufacturing activities being known contaminants of concern in creek sediments; the proximity of the site to Coney Island Creek, which is a fishery and part of the core area of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary; and the presence of additional sensitive environments within the 15-mile target distance limit (TDL).

	Document Control No.: W0802.1A.02364
APPENDIX A	
FIGURES	





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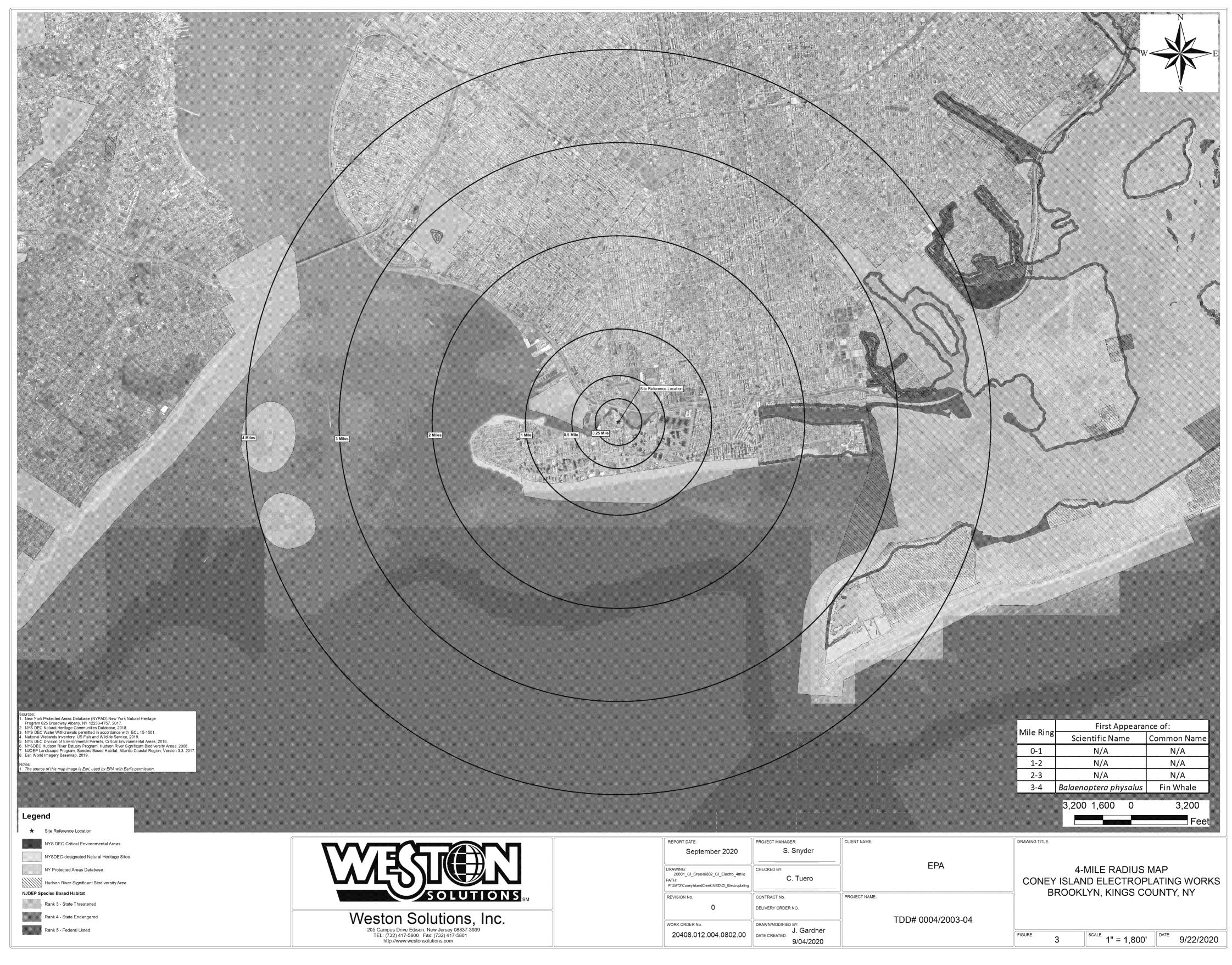
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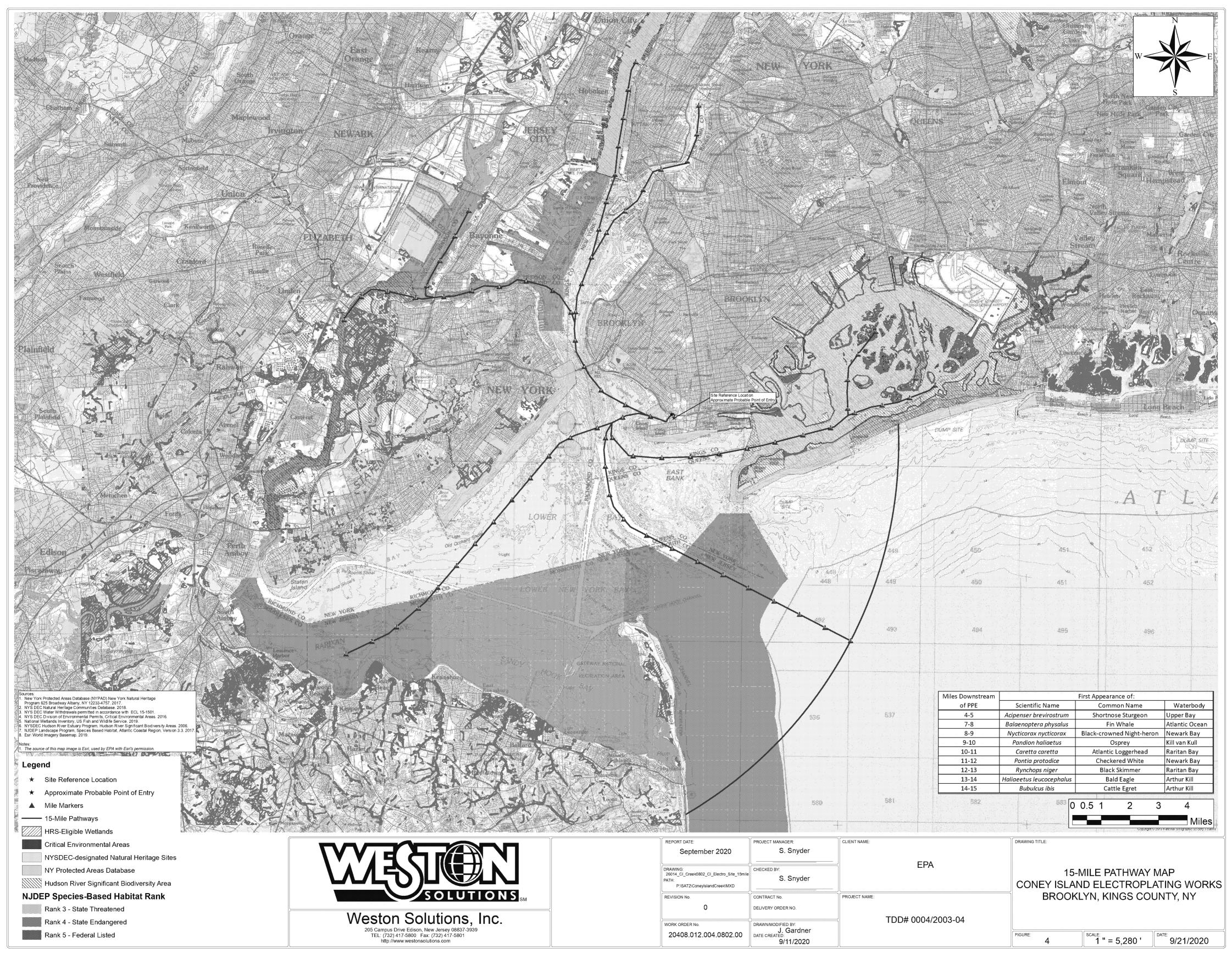
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September 2020





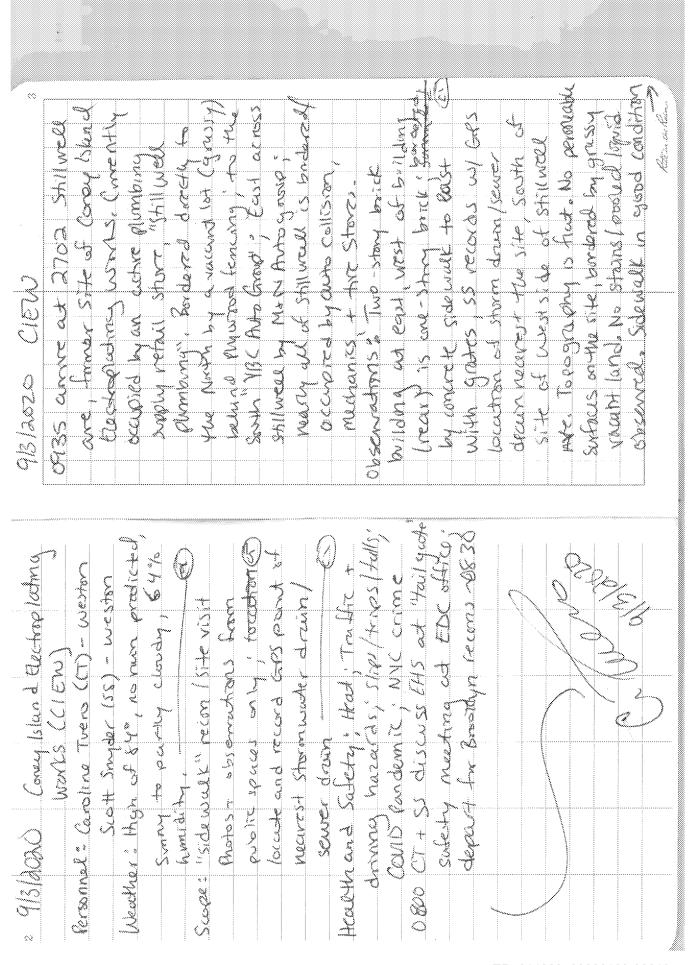
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APPENDIX B	
LOGBOOK AND PHOTO DOCUME	NTATION

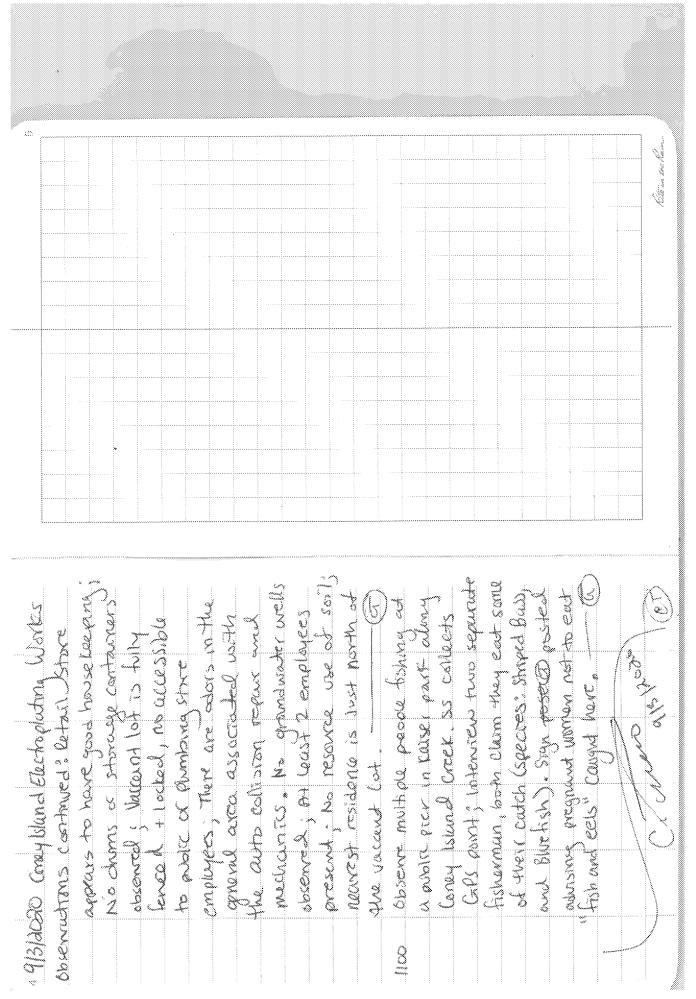
CONEY TSLAND ELECTROPLOTING WORKS



Site Logbook

DCN: WOBOS. 30. 02524





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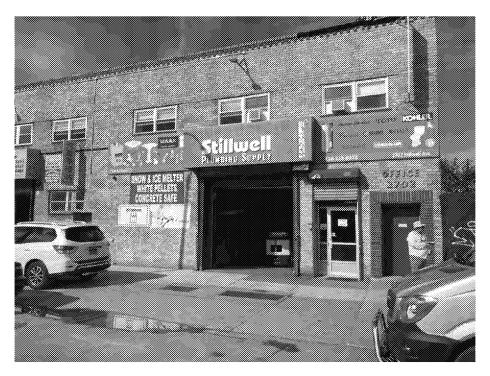


Photo No. 1: Storefront and sign of current site occupant, Stillwell Plumbing Supply, located at 2702 Stillwell Avenue, the former location of Coney Island Electroplating Works (CIEW); looking west. Vacant land to the north is fully fenced by green fencing, at right of photo.



Photo No. 2: Vacant land bordering site to the north; northern wall of the brick building occupying the CIEW site at the left. Land fully fenced; no staining, stressed vegetation, or containers observed on the property. Looking west.



Photo No. 3: Stillwell Plumbing Supply is located in a two-story brick building, occupied by a second storefront to the south, an auto mechanic shop. Looking southwest.

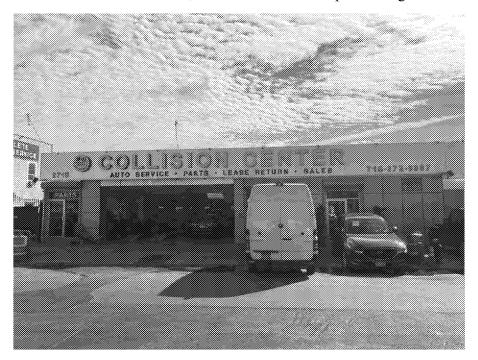


Photo No. 4: M&N Collision Center is located directly east of the site, across Stillwell Ave. The majority of Stillwell Ave is occupied by auto mechanics and auto supply stores (tires and car parts, new and resale). Looking east.



Photo No. 5: Grates located in the sidewalks directly outside 2702 Stillwell Ave. The nearest storm sewer is located south of the site in the western side of Stillwell Ave.

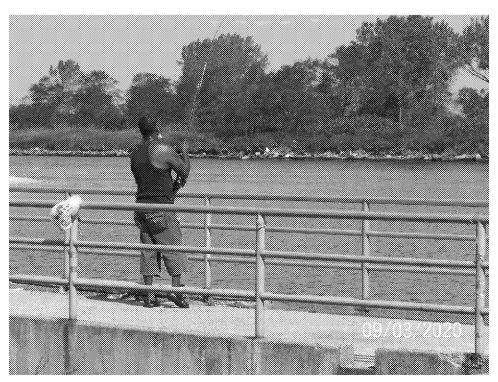




Photo Nos. 6 and 7: Multiple persons were observed to be fishing for consumption along the south side of Coney Island Creek at the Kaiser Park fishing pier. According to these residents, species of fish caught for consumption include blue fish, striped bass, and flounder. Resident at the far end of the pier was using both a fishing pole and a net.

	Document Control No.: W0802.1A.02364
APPENDIX C REFERENCES	
REFERENCES	

REFERENCES

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- 2. EDR. <u>Certified Sanborn® Map Report, Coney Island Electroplating Works, 2702 Stillwell Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224, Inquiry Number: 6175972.3</u>. September 1, 2020. [37 pages]
- EDR. The EDR City Directory Abstract, Coney Island Electroplating Works, 2702 Stillwell Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224, Inquiry Number: 6175972.5. September 1, 2020. [32 pages]
- 4. EDR. The EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package, Coney Island Electroplating Works, 2702 Stillwell Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11224, Inquiry Number: 6175972.8. September 1, 2020. [15 pages]
- 5. EPA Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO). <u>Detailed Facility Report: Coney Island Electro Pltg Wks, 2702 Stillwell Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11224</u>. Accessed and downloaded from https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110004334783 on September 16, 2020. [3 pages]
- EPA Envirofacts. <u>RCRAInfo Search Results</u>, <u>Coney Island Electro Pltg Wks</u>, <u>Handler ID: NYD001493857</u>. Accessed and downloaded from https://enviro.epa.gov/enviro/rcrainfoquery_3.facility_information?pgm_sys_id=NYD001493857 on April 1, 2020. [2 pages]
- 7. EPA Envirofacts. FRS Facility Detail Report, Coney Island Electro Pltg Wks, EPA Registry ID: 110004334783. Accessed and downloaded from https://ofmpub.epa.gov/enviro/fii query detail.disp program facility?p registry id=11000 on April 1, 2020. [2 pages]
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- 10. Strehlau-Howay, Lindsey, et al., Pace University. <u>The NYC Social Assessment: Understanding Waterfront Users, Coney Island Creek Waterfront Profile.</u> 2019. [48 pages]
- 11. Kensinger, Nathan, Curbed, New York. <u>Coney Island's Untamed Creek, Caught Between Past & Future</u>. November 20, 2014. [19 pages]
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- 13. United States Geological Survey (USGS). Water-Table Altitude in Kings and Queens Counties, New York, in March 1997 (Fact Sheet FS 134-97). November 1997. [2 pages]